

Appl. No. 10/762,676
Amdt. Dated June 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81872.0055
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 9, 14, and 15 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 10-13 are amended. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 10-13 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a multicrystalline silicone substrate and a process for roughening surface thereof, preferably used in a field of solar cell or the like. (Applicant's specification, at p. 1, lines 9-11).

ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS:

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant elects for prosecution the claims of Group I, claims 1-4 and 7-13.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 1 and 10 stand objected to because of informalities. The Office states, "apparently 'on' should be --over-- (i.e., fine textures formed on the relatively large irregularities), as shown in Figure 6." The Applicant believes this is a typographical error and this should read 'over' should be --on--. In response, the Applicant amended claims 1 and 10 in the manner suggested by the Office. Withdrawal of this objection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office states that claim 13 should depend on claim 10 and not claim 9 in order to have the proper antecedent basis. In response, the Applicant amended claim 13 in the manner suggested by the Office. Withdrawal of this objection is thus respectfully requested.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1-4 and 7-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Office states that the terms "relatively large" and "relatively fine" in claim 1 renders the claim indefinite. In response, the Applicant deleted these terms from claim 1. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office states that the term "relatively large" in claim 9 renders the claim indefinite. This rejection is moot due to the cancellation of claim 9.

The Office states that claims 2-4 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because they are dependent on indefinite base claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 7-8 now depend from amended claim 1. The terms which rendered claim 1 indefinite have been removed. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office states that claims 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because they are dependent on indefinite base claim 9. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as to amended claims 10-13. Amended claim 10 does not have the term which rendered claim 9 indefinite. Claims 11-13 now depend from amended claim 10. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,968). This rejection is moot with respect to claim 9 due to the cancellation of this claim. The Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection as to amended claim 12. Claim 12, as amended, depends from claim 10. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

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ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Office states that claims 1-4 and 7-8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4 and 7-8 have been amended to overcome these rejections. Allowance of claims 1-4 and 7-8 is therefore, respectfully requested.

The art made of record but not relied upon by the Examiner has been considered. However, it is submitted that this art neither describes nor suggests the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

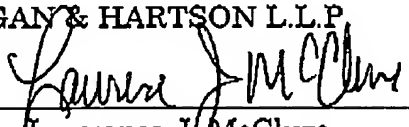
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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